

Cache Conservation News



Every Day is Earth Day
for Ranchers and Farmers

Winter 2002

The Cache Valley Agricultural Heritage Program is moving forward to identify agricultural lands at risk and find tools to preserve Cache County's working lands.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*By Gordon Zilles, Chairman
Blacksmith Fork Conservation District*

Cache Valley's agricultural lands have been called the "soul of our cultural heritage." They could also be called the heart, which maintains the pulse of our community, or the backbone, which provides the structure. But whatever you want to call them, Cache Valley just would not be the same without its agricultural lands.

Too few valley residents know that Cache County is one of Utah's top ag-producing counties. And those who do, sometimes take for granted that it will always stay that way. But that may not always be the case.

Hard work and low prices can be discouraging. Urban development is increasingly eating away at formerly productive agricultural lands. These factors threaten our agricultural industry.

That's why the soil conservation districts have teamed up with other local concerned citizens, business leaders, government officials and land-use planners to take action now to ensure that Cache Valley's agricultural heritage will remain intact.

The new group, called the Cache Valley Agricultural Heritage Program, is moving forward to identify agricultural lands at risk and find tools to preserve Cache County's working agricultural lands. We are committed to a strong agriculture industry in Cache Valley.

Local conservation projects receive federal funds

The Cache County Local Work Group recently received word that two of its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) proposals will be funded in 2002.

Project proposals to address the medusahead rye weed problem in the south end of the county along with improving animal feeding operations along Clarkston & Newton Creek in the north will receive program funds to assist individual operators to address these targeted resource concerns.

Program sign-up dates and a list of eligible cost-share practices will be forthcoming.

The Cache County Local Work Group also announces that limited cost-share money will be available for improving irrigation systems under the Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA) Program. Approximately \$180,000 will be available for irrigation projects in counties north of and including Utah County.

Program sign-up dates and further details will be available soon.

For more information, please contact the local USDA Service Center, 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan, (435)753-4616.

— Jon Hardman, NRCS

Inside This Issue

- Extension Corner 2
- Board Actions 3
- Exploring the Web 3
- Coming events 6
- Gleanings 6
- Conservation Classroom 8

EXTENSION CORNER

Computer-assisted literacy course offered

There is a large and growing population of people in Utah with ethnic origin other than the United States. The largest sector of this diverse group is of Hispanic origin.

Many of the individuals comprising this community were of the lowest social-economic level in their native countries and have immigrated in search of new opportunities for themselves and their families. Many have no or very limited formal education but are excellent workers. Here in Utah, the children of these immigrants attend public schools, quickly learn English, and receive cultural and academic education while the parents may remain culturally isolated.

In an effort to reach out to underserved populations, Utah State University Extension has developed a very successful program titled "Computer-assisted Literacy for Non-English Speakers."

Dr. Hector Mendiola and Jean Alder have been the driving forces behind creating the curriculum and providing instruction to individuals wanting to learn English.

This computing and literacy course is designed to introduce students to the world of computers, with a broad overview of computer basics, and their use in word processing, electronic mail and internet access. Students have shown a significant improvement in language skills after exposure to

the computer and instruction from instructors and volunteers.

Two new classes are being offered. One class started Jan. 7 at the ASTE Building in North Logan. Students will meet Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. for a 10-week period. A similar class will be offered at Sky View High School Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting Feb. 5. Cost of the instruction will be \$25 per student.

We encourage employers to urge their Hispanic employees to attend this training. A phone call to the Extension Office, 752-6263, or a direct call to Hector, 760-0581, will answer any questions you might have.

— Clark Israelsen
Cache County Extension Agent

We encourage employers to urge their Hispanic employees to attend this training.

Johne's disease testing

The Utah Legislature has established a fund to be used in testing Utah dairy herds for Johne's (pronounced Yonees) Disease. The fund will pay for the laboratory testing of 30 cows per herd, but is limited to the first 200 herds that apply. The cost of test tubes and laboratory fees will be paid from the state fund. Blood samples are drawn by your veterinarian, who will bill you for the cost of services.

Applications are available from your veterinarian or the Cache County Extension office, 752-6263.

	<p>Blacksmith Fork Soil Conservation District</p> <p>Board of Supervisors Gordon Zilles, Chairman</p> <p>Members: Gene Hübner Jon White Paul Leishman Richard Nielsen</p> <p>Associate Members: Clark Israelsen Charles R. Batten</p>	<p>North Cache Soil Conservation District</p> <p>Board of Supervisors S. Bruce Karren, Chairman</p> <p>Members: Shane Munk Joseph G. Larsen W. Noble Erickson D Wesley Roundy</p> <p>Associate Members: Clark Israelsen Charles R. Batten</p>
--	---	---

BOARD ACTIONS

Joint Action

- Recommended approval of Agriculture Protection Areas for Erma and Marvin Moon and Harold Selman Inc.;
- Co-sponsored a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Workshop for local farm operators in November;
- Provided seed money for an educational worm composting bin pilot project in Logan schools with Logan City Environmental Division;

Blacksmith Fork

- Approved conservation plans of Glen Lee Hansen, Paul Leishman (for planning), Jon White, Don Peterson (amended) and Noel Bess (amended).

North Cache

- Approved conservation plan of Francisco Herrera, Bill Wright, Adrian Geddes (for planning) and Lynn Stewart.
- Accepted Francisco Herrera as cooperator.

EXPLORING THE WEB

Because of the events of Sept. 11, and the realization of the vulnerability of agriculture to bioterrorism, this issue's focus is on websites that contain information concerning biosecurity.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture -

www.usda.gov Click on *Homeland Security/Information Materials*. You will find questions and answers, fact sheets on anthrax and foot and mouth disease, biosecurity measures for farm visits, and links to related sites.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) -

www.aphis.usda.gov The Mission of APHIS is to safeguard resources from exotic invasive pests and diseases, monitor and manage agricultural pests and diseases in the U.S., resolve and manage trade issues in matters related to animal or plant health, and ensure the humane care and treatment of animals. Choose among *Functions*, *News & Information*, and *Hot Issues*.

National Biosecurity Resource Center for Animal Health Emergencies -

www.biosecuritycenter.org The *Library* is a data base of peer-reviewed literature. *Nutrient Management* includes links to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (and other states), where you will find the state's requirements. *Reportable Diseases* is linked to the Utah web page, and Rule R58-2, Diseases, Inspections, and Quarantines.

RAND -

www.rand.org "RAND also has a number of *resources and materials* that address the issue of domestic terrorism." Click *resources and materials*, or search for "agro-terrorism." Find links to anthrax, response to bioterrorism, food safety, and others. The Oct. 10 statement of RAND Policy Analyst Dr. Peter Chalk describes the potential impacts of a bioterrorist attack, and includes several policy recommendations. If you feel adventurous, click *Try this query on entire web*, at bottom of the search results screen.



New NRCS staff

Brian David grew up on a farm in southeast Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in agronomy. In September 2000 he joined the NRCS in Provo as a soil conservationist. He transferred to Logan in October 2001. In his free time Brian enjoys snowmobiling, motorcycling, and mountain biking.

CNMP workshop held

Fourteen local dairymen recently took steps to comply with environmental rules by participating in a seminar to begin the development of their own Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs).

The workshop is a cooperative effort between USU Extension, USDA-NRCS and UACD. Instructors led producers through the 12-step CNMP guide and explained that additional work would need to be done at home before the plan is complete.

The training was given to producers who voluntarily stepped forward to document their environmental stewardship.

The Cache County seminar was the first of a series to be held in the state. A follow up session, with the same producers, is scheduled for February.

Eco-terrorism threat in Utah is real

On Sept. 11, 2001, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) announced that it had fire-bombed a McDonald's restaurant in Tucson, Ariz. Though far overshadowed by other events of that day, it serves as a reminder that there are domestic terrorists in our midst who continue to seek to destroy legitimate enterprises "in defense of all life."

According to the Deseret News, more than 50 attacks on private and government property in Utah have been initiated by animal rights activists, resulting in nearly \$3 million in damages. Most targets have been agribusinesses close to populated areas along the Wasatch Front. But there is growing concern that the attacks may spread to dairy farms and feedlots in rural Utah.

The winter Olympics in February cause increased concern. Major Olympic sponsors have been targets of ALF and its ally, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). The large crowds and 10,000 or so news reporters are temptations to those who seek the maximum publicity from their terrorist acts. Security planners for the Olympics have always considered the possibility of terrorist attacks, and their anti-terrorism planning has intensified since Sept. 11.

The American Farm Bureau has urged President George W. Bush to appoint a specialist within the new Office of Homeland Security to help safeguard agriculture and the nation's food supply from terrorists.

Yet, the ultimate line of defense must be down on the farm. The Animal Agriculture Alliance has recommended a series of steps to maintain security for farms and ranches. That list was published in the November Utah Farm Bureau News, and is available on the Farm Bureau website at www.fb.org/utfb. All farm and ranch operators would be wise to keep the list at hand, and implement its suggestions to the best of their ability.



More new NRCS staff

Gaylene J. Howard was raised on a ranch in Northern Idaho. She earned her agronomy degree from Washington State University, at Pullman. Gaylene has worked as a soil conservationist for NRCS for about nine years, and transferred to Logan from Tremonton in late September. Gaylene's husband, Ben, owns a ranch near Challis, Idaho, and she has a 6-year-old son, Joshua.

Agricultural heritage program launched

A group of local farmers and ranchers, business leaders, government officials and concerned citizens are taking action to develop a county-wide plan that will establish criteria for determining which farmlands should be protected and remain in agriculture, and to provide the tools for protecting those lands.

Dubbed the Cache Valley Agricultural Heritage Program, they have embarked on a series of activities to analyze existing land uses, identify the most significant agricultural lands, and submit a final report to the Quality Growth Commission by December 2002.

To help implement the Agricultural Heritage Program, State Rep. Craig Butters will file three pieces of legislation in the 2002 session of the Legislature. One would authorize a 1/8 percent local option sales tax, the proceeds to be used by counties to purchase conservation easements on critical lands.

The second bill would authorize Cache County to ask an opinion question on the November 2002 ballot to determine citizen support of a property tax to provide funds for protection of agriculture.

The third bill would amend the Special Service District law to allow conservation easements for the purpose of preserving agriculture lands.

Rep. Brent Parker will sponsor legislation that will simplify Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs and allow for transfers between government jurisdictions. The rights to develop property in one area could be sold and the buyer could use those rights to build more housing than is traditionally allowed in another location.

For more information, or to participate in the program, contact Cindy Hall, at the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG), 752-7242.

Protect your water rights, attorney says

"There are a lot of small irrigation companies in Cache Valley," says Warren Peterson, of the law firm Waddingham and Peterson, of Delta. "They would not have the resources they would need for a sustained legal battle over water rights. They should do as others have done in parts of the state -- band together and pool their resources in order to meet those potential demands."

Peterson's comments were made before an audience of about 55 interested persons at the October meeting of the Cache County Water Policy Advisory Board. Peterson spoke on partial forfeiture of water rights, shareholder change applications, and proposed legislation.

Peterson also recommended that irrigation companies:

- inventory their water rights and use of water to determine whether full beneficial use has been made within the last five years;
- develop procedures to deal with change-of-use requests;
- review their articles of incorporation and bylaws, and amend them if necessary to deal with change requests and to comply with the Utah Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act of the year 2000 Legislature.

"The 2002 legislative session promises to be one of the most significant for water rights issues for many years," said Peterson. "Watch the legislative reports and be ready to call on your representative or senator."

Changes in the following sections have been proposed:

- 73-1-4. Reversion to public abandonment or forfeiture for nonuse;
- 73-3-3.5. Change of point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use of water; and
- 73-1-4.5. Authorization for water companies to allocate water rights lost by forfeiture or nonuse, to redeem and retire shares, arrange for use of water.

The full texts of these proposed changes are available on the Utah Division of Water Rights web site at

www.nrwrt1.nr.state.ut.us/miscinfo/default.htm.

Water policy board sets 2002 priorities

The Cache County Water Policy Advisory Board agreed at its November meeting that its highest priority for next year will be studies to determine the effects of pumping from municipal wells on the flows of the Bear River and its tributaries. A request for proposal will be drafted for consideration at its Jan. 15 meeting.

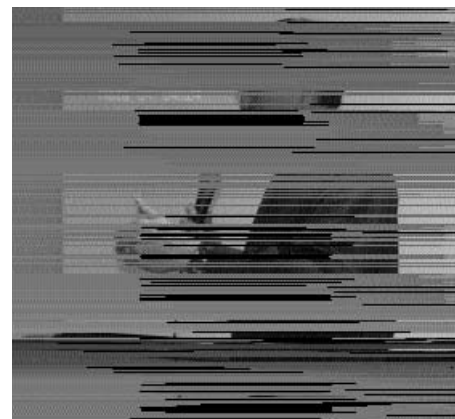
The proposed studies would develop a model showing (1) the effects of varying numbers of new wells, (2) the effects of increased sewer flows, and (3) the effects of irrigation canal seepage.

At its January meeting, the Board will also discuss the EPA-mandated storm water management program with county-wide planner Mark Teuscher.

UACD seeks additional funding from Legislature

The Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) will seek new ongoing funding for resource conservation in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food budget at the current session of the Legislature. The new funding of \$300,000 is needed to maintain current staff support to 38 Utah soil conservation districts and to add one planner to assist owners of animal feeding operations.

With support of the Agriculture Department and the Legislature, the districts employ technicians and engineers to help plan for certain agricultural loans, and to help landowners comply with new state and federal water quality standards. The limited district staff has responded exceptionally well to the challenges in assisting private landowners address these and other conservation needs.



Warren Peterson, attorney with Waddingham and Peterson, of Delta

GLEANINGS

The Federal Government has ordered all government repositories to destroy a compact disk containing a survey of government data on reservoirs and dams because the information could be used by terrorists.

— *Eric Lichtblau, in the L.A. Times, 11/18/01*

On Nov. 6, voters in 14 states approved \$905 million in funding for parks and open space, according to the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance.

— *enotes from NACD 11/20/01*

Test results by the Bear River Resource Conservation and Development district show that cloud seeding increases snowpacks by 3 percent to 18 percent about 20 miles from the site of the seeding.

— *Scott Ferguson, Bear River RC&D*

Requests by Utah landowners for assistance from the USDA NRCS for nonpoint source water quality control far exceeds the funds available. There were \$3.46 million contracted during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. More than twice that amount (\$7.75 million in requests) were left without funds during the same year.

— *Karl Kler, NRCS*

A research center to find ways of countering terrorist attacks on the nation's agriculture industry has been created at Texas A&M University. The USDA Agriculture Research Service has provided about \$400,000 as seed money.

— *United Press International, 12/7/01*

In 1990, national forest timber harvests represented 25 percent of the softwood lumber used. By 1999 federal harvest levels were reduced by 80 percent. Softwood imports have risen by 58 percent above 1990 levels, from as far away as New Zealand and Chile.

— *William Wade Key*

The Chief of the U.S. Forest Service was recently quoted as saying that regulations governing the federal forests and grasslands are so confusing that the national forests are in a state of "analysis paralysis."

— *Associated Press, 12/30/01*

Conservation district election ballots to be mailed soon

Ballots will soon be in the mail to elect two members of the board of supervisors of each of the two soil conservation districts in Cache County. Ballots will be mailed to principle farm and ranch land managers who are on the Soil Conservation Commission's list.

Those nominated for the Blacksmith Fork board are incumbents Gordon Zilles, dairyman, College Ward (the incumbent chairman) and Paul Leishman, also a dairyman from College Ward. Other candidates on the ballot are Joe Fuhrman, Logan, and Earl Glenn, Wellsville.

Nominees for the North Cache board include S. Bruce Karren, dairyman, Lewiston (the incumbent chairman); Denise Allen, Cove; Steven Chambers, Smithfield; and LaMont Godfrey, Clarkston.

Soil Conservation Districts are governed by a board of five citizens elected by their peers in a special election conducted by mail. Board members serve four-year terms.

If you are a registered voter, and do not receive a ballot, you may request one for the district in which you live. Ballot request forms are available at the Soil Conservation District office, 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan.

COMING EVENTS

- "Get Growing with Sustainable Agriculture" is the theme of the Small Farm Conference, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Jan. 12, at the Union Station, Ogden. Contact Extension at 752-6263.

- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Feb. 3-7, 2002, Reno, Nevada. For information or to register, go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/2002/registration.htm> or contact: Trindal Stanke at (202)547-6223, or email Trindal-Stanke@nacdn.net.

Jensen Bros. Herefords



Hereford & Angus replacement heifers for sale

At the ranch
3707 W. 2200 South
Young Ward, Utah

For information, call Gail, 752-4904, or Joe, 753-2183

United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Office

Scott J. Poulsen, area manager
David G. Brown, loan officer
Steve Bouck, loan officer

2072 N. Main, Ste. 201
North Logan, UT 84341-1993
(435) 752-2146
1-800-748-5071



Utah State UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Established 1905



Lewiston State Bank

Your Hometown Bank

2190 N. Main, North Logan
(435) 750-6700

17 E. Center, Lewiston
(435) 258-2456



Leatham Grain

308 E. Main, Wellsville

245-4122

IFA

FEED - SEED - TWINE -
FENCING - IRRIGATION - TIRES -
FERTILIZER - INSECTICIDES -
HERBICIDES

SERVING THE NEEDS OF
AGRICULTURE ON THE FARM

HYDE PARK 563-1604
LEWISTON 258-2475

Theurer's Custom Meats

Mobile slaughtering and custom cutting

Our aim is to serve you best

1 N. Main, Lewiston
258-2755

23 W. Main, Richmond
258-2252

Serving agriculture since 1962

Walton Feed West, Inc.

Specializing in feed supplements

Cache Junction

5740 N. 7000 West

563-5301

Polaris

Golden Spike Equipment Co.

www.gspike.com

1352 W. Main
Tremonton



(435) 257-5346
1-800-821-4474

Smithfield Livestock Auction

Sale day every Thursday

Lane Parker, Auctioneer/Owner Jared Parker, Auctioneer

www.smithfieldlivestock.com

Sale barn: 435-563-3259

Mobile: 435-757-4643

EES, LLC

250 South Main
Mendon, Utah 84325-0280
435-753-6062

Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP)

Design - Lagoons, Waste Treatment, Containment
Permits, Soil and Water Monitoring



CACHE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

GreenLine Equipment

1625 W. Main, Tremonton, UT (435) 257-5231
193 E. 800 North, Preston, ID (208) 852-3660



Winter water lessons available on the web

Educators looking for information and activities to teach their students about water can find teaching tools at the Utah State University Extension Water Quality web page:
<http://extension.usu.edu/coop/natres/wq/index.htm>.

Here you'll find lesson plans for "Water Pollution Skittles Activity" and "Macroinvertebrate Skittles." These lessons about water can be performed in the classroom with no water in sight - a definite advantage this winter! A water cycle word search and song, complete with lyrics and musical score, can also be downloaded at the site.

For a great hands-on approach, borrow a tabletop watershed model from Extension Water Quality. These molded plastic models look just like a watershed and dramatically demonstrate water pollution and its prevention. A simple lesson plan for use with the watershed model can also be downloaded at the web site.

In addition, Extension Water Quality staff offers water education presentations to schools, 4-H, Boy Scouts and anyone else interested. Presentations can be tailored to meet your needs and

include topics such as water cycle, water pollution and water resources.

For more information about the Extension Water Quality Program, contact André Walker, andree@cnr.su.edu, or at 797-2580.

Teams invited to participate in Utah Envirothon

High school students throughout Utah are invited to test their environmental knowledge at the 2002 Utah Envirothon, to be held May 3-4 at Dinosaur National Monument near Vernal.

Teams will compete to win the state title and represent Utah at the Canon Envirothon in Amherst, Mass., in July 2002.

The Envirothon is a natural resource competition for high school students in grades 9-12. As a team, students are tested on their knowledge of natural resource topics including soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. This year's current topic is "Introduced Species and Their Effect on Biodiversity."

For more information on the Utah Envirothon or to receive an advisor's handbook, call Jennifer Hines, state coordinator, (435) 753-6029, ext. 36.



Important phone numbers

Conservation districts	753-6029
USDA-NRCS	753-5616
Cache County Extension	752-6263
USDA-FSA	753-5480